



## NTHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to Hilliard Homes

### ***Partnerships Save Archaeological Treasures and Foster Next Generation of Advocates***

Saint Paul, Minn. (October 4, 2007) – Today, **Hilliard Homes**, in Chicago, Ill., is receiving the **2007 National Trust/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation** from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The project is one of 21 national award winners the National Trust for Historic Preservation is honoring during its week-long **2007 National Preservation Conference** in the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

When it was completed in 1966, Chicago's Hilliard Homes complex won praise as an outstanding example of humane high-rise living for low-income families. Designed by renowned architect, Bertrand Goldberg, the five-building complex also drew attention for its unusual "space-age" look, which replaced standard-issue right angles with undulating walls and elliptical windows. Its architectural significance earned the complex a listing in the National Register, even though it was less than 50 years old.

By the 1990s, Hilliard Homes had fallen upon hard times. The complex was ill-managed, rundown and unsafe. In a massive effort to improve the appearance, quality and culture of public housing in the city, the Chicago Housing Authority marshaled Holsten Real Estate Development to take on the challenge of restoring the deteriorated property to its original promise.

"Thanks to the tireless efforts of Holsten Real Estate Development and a significant number of local, state, and federal agencies, Hilliard Homes is once again a highlight of the Chicago skyline," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Now restored to its former glory, it stands as a remarkable example of how the thoughtful preservation our nation's heritage can help revitalize neighborhoods and transform them into thriving communities."

Today, after a \$99 million rehabilitation, Hilliard Homes is once again what it was intended to be: a safe, attractive place to live. The use of federal historic tax credits in the revitalization of these modern-era structures marked this effort as one of the largest of its kind, involving 654 residential units in the high-rise towers, in addition to a community center, amphitheatre and landscaping. Non-traditional construction methods and unusual architectural features posed special challenges throughout the process, but the distinctive character of the buildings remained intact.

Co-nominees for Hilliard Homes National Trust/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation are: Alderman Pat Dowell; Alliant Housing Capital; Bank of America; Chicago Housing Authority; City of Chicago Department of Environment; City of Chicago Department of Housing; Developer's Mortgage Corporation; Linn-Mathes, Inc., General Contractors and Builders; Greene & Proppe Design; Hilliard Homes Senior and Family Local Advisory Councils; Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation; Lisec & Biederman, Ltd. Architect and Planners; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.